

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 2/2/2015 10:12:52 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: The Elementary & Secondary Education Act

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Message:
Governor Haley,

Roylco, Inc is extremely concerned about the current discussion led by Senator Lamar Alexander regarding the draft of his bill to reauthorize the Elementary & Secondary Education Act. Roylco is a South Carolina manufacturer, primarily of educational arts and crafts, that employs over 40 South Carolinians and contributes to our local tax base. We sell and supply educational materials throughout the United States, and we export our products internationally.

We urge you to support success in school, work, and life for all students by strengthening arts education in this bill. We, along with 93% of Americans, believe that the arts are vital to providing a well-rounded education to our young people. Teaching math, reading, science and more is STRENGTHENED through the incorporation of the Arts in schools.

Specifically, we respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Retain the core academic subjects provision, which includes the arts;
- 2) Continue the \$1 billion 21st Century Community Learning Center after-school program, which supports arts education;
- 3) Continue the federal Arts in Education program which has supported over 200 model grant programs over the last decade;
- 4) Include indicators of student access to the arts as part of annual state reporting (like New Jersey has) to help identify the equity gap.

Teaching the arts improves academic engagement, SAT scores and achievement among our students. Students who are involved in the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for their academic achievement. Those who take four years of arts and music classes average almost 100 points higher on their SAT scores than students who take only half a year or less of such classes. Additionally, low income students who are highly engaged in the arts are more than twice as likely to graduate college than their peers with no arts education. These are only a handful of examples illustrating how critical arts education is to the next generation of Americans.